

**REMARKS**The Amendment

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the transfer consists of a carrier sheet, backing coat and indicia coat, with direct image indicia. This incorporates the definition of the backing coat which is recited in claim 2 which has been considered to be allowable. The presence of the top coat of a temperature and pressure sensitive adhesive has been incorporated in the preamble of claim 1. In view of the amendment to claim 1, claim 16 has been canceled.

Applicants' Comments

The allowance of claims 2, 6, 17, 20 and 21 is noted with appreciation.

It is believed that claim 1 as now amended and its dependent claims 7, 8, 18, 19 and 22-24 clearly distinguish over the prior art for the same reasons as previously argued with regard to claim 2. The recitation of a temperature and pressure sensitive adhesive which was previously recited in sub-paragraph b of claim 1 has been moved to the preamble of the claim, and a recitation of a backing coat has now been incorporated into claim 1 with the same language as it appears in allowed claim 2.

The amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes from the prior art for the following reasons:

Katsura et al teaches that the indicia coat (print layer) is to be applied directly onto the film; see column 7, lines 43-45 which states:

“...this label 1 consists of a laminate comprising a drawn film plastic film substrate layer (outer layer) 2, a print layer 3 formed on the back side of the substrate layer 2, ...”.

Also, at column 10, lines 14-16, it is stated that:

“Generally a print layer is formed on the outer or inner side of the drawn film to be used as the label.”

Katsura et al print directly onto the drawn plastic film because the film becomes the label which is bonded to the molded article. Applicants impose a backing coat

between the indicia layer and the carrier sheet (plastic film) which will bond to the film at ambient temperatures and which will release from the film at the demolding (application) temperature, thereby permitting removal of the carrier from the indicia which is transferred to the inside surface of a rotational mold. These are material structural and functional distinctions from the prior art. The plastic film shown by Katsura et al cannot be removed from the print layer, but instead is an integral element of the label which is bonded to the molded article (hollow-form vessel). In fact, the entire disclosure of Katsura et al is directed to selection of a drawn plastic film which has physical properties that prevent the film from wrinkling or bulging when affixed to the hollow-form vessel; see column 6, lines 44-55. In contrast, the carrier sheet in the claimed transfer cannot remain in the mold, as the backing layer is recited to release from the carrier sheet at the application (demolding) temperature.

It is believed that the foregoing comments reflect the basis for allowance of claims 2 and its dependent claims, and therefore claim 1 as now amended also recites allowable subject matter.

Favorable reconsideration of the final rejection in view of the amendment and preceding arguments is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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